

MEMORANDUM

December 6, 2017

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Dick Oliver, Planning Commission Chairman

SUBJECT: Street Lighting

Maureen Hartman and I met with Delmarva Power and Light (DPL) representative, Jim Smith and lighting designer, Ben Mazza, in recent weeks. The Commission has met and discussed various factors around the lighting issue extensively. The Commission has made conclusions and recommendations for further action:

- DPL is the preferred source for any future lighting fixtures.
- Use existing poles and wire infrastructure over installing any new poles or wires.
- Do Not install any new lighting for at least one year.
- Continue to research and track developments in the field of municipal lighting initiatives.

Background and Rationale

There are two major factors that underlie our rationale:

- There is no broad-based demand within the town to make any changes or improvements to the current lighting infrastructure.
- South Bethany is not the only town on the peninsula dealing with street lighting issues.

LED (light emitting diodes) are the wave of the future and the technology is evolving rapidly. Basically, what may not be available today, may be available in the next few months or years. We recommend that the town wait for events to develop in the rapidly changing field.

We concluded the light poles in town are there for the foreseeable future. Installing additional poles for street lights is unduly expensive and redundant. Therefore, we recommend we confine our search for additional light fixtures to fixtures that can be mounted on the existing poles.

The Commission agreed to establish a working document of the requirements for the lighting proposal be developed within a reasonable time frame. This document will evolve over time and include all relevant issues to be considered in developing the final plan and recommendations. While noting that not all requirements may be fully met, this recommendation will be critical guidance to evaluate the need for compromise and/or for specific exceptions. Mr. Fischer volunteered to create the first draft for distribution prior to the next meeting in January 2018.

The Commission agreed that a time frame of the recommendation could be acted upon by January 2019, budgeted and approved in May 2019 and actions implemented by June 2019.

The Nov. 17, 2017 Planning Commission minutes are also attached with more detailed information for your review. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please email me at dicko6623@gmail.com or call (302)539-3771.